

Laurette Taylor at National---Al Jolson at Belasco This Week

New Manners Play Opens With Miss Taylor In Role of a Mother of a Boy of Nineteen—Winter Garden Extravaganza Exploits Al Jolson As "Friday" In Play All About Robinson Crusoe—Loew's Columbia Has a Birthday—Vaudeville Stock and Film Features At Other Houses.

ONE of the most interesting events of the theatrical season, the debut of Laurette Taylor in a new play by her husband, J. Hartley Manners, takes place at the National Theater tomorrow night.

"The Harp of Life" provides Miss Taylor with what she calls her first "thinking role" for many seasons. This play is the first of a series of three by her husband, in which she is to appear during the thirty weeks of the theatrical year.

This reversion to repertoire is becoming more and more popular with those who wish to consider themselves pre-eminent on the stage. Miss Taylor has our best wishes for success in a venture which in itself is a most commendable movement in the proper direction.

Al Jolson, in "Robinson Crusoe, Jr.," arrives at the Belasco Theater for a week's dalliance in the role of "Friday." Everybody knows who Friday was, who Al Jolson is, and what all Winter Garden productions are like. With a wisdom and foresight delightful to perceive the management has arranged for three matinees, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Little children who have been in good behavior for some time should be rewarded by a trip to this production. The enlarged, and deified "Robinson Crusoe, Jr.," as put out by the Winter Garden company is exactly fitted to the needs and wishes of the modern little girl or boy.

Last year David Belasco made the statement that comedy was the only thing after all, and called attention to his pet play, "The Boomerang." It is not surprising, therefore, to those who knew of Mr. Belasco's predilection for lighter plays at the present time of his career, that Miss Frances Starr should be starred in a new comedy this fall, "The Little Lady in Blue."

This play is to open Monday night, the 16th, at the Belasco Theater in this city. Miss Starr takes the role of a young English governess, living in the year 1820, whose wit and character aid in the reformation of a young British prodigal who has been expelled from the British navy. The authors are Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percyvale.

Today marks the first anniversary of the Columbia Theater under the direction of Marcus Loew. The theater has kept good faith with its patrons. One year ago today Mary Pickford inaugurated the opening of the playhouse under the name of "The Girl of the Year." The theater has been run under the personal direction of Lawrence Beatus, who has won a host of friends since coming to Washington from Toronto, where he represented Mr. Loew for several seasons. Mr. Beatus is to be congratulated on the manner in which Loew's Columbia Theater has been conducted.

FLORENCE E. YODER.

National: Laurette Taylor

In a New Manners Play.

MISS LAURETTE TAYLOR will come to Washington for a week's engagement at the National Theater, beginning tomorrow night, in "The Harp of Life," a new play from the pen of J. Hartley Manners. This is the vehicle in which the star will make her reappearance in New York in a few weeks, after an absence of two years, during which time she held London audiences spellbound by the brilliance of her acting.

In the new Manners play Miss Taylor will portray a thirty-year-old woman, an mother of a nineteen-year-old boy. In everything except actual years, however, this modern mother is altogether as alive with the spirit of youth as her son, and in his eyes far and away "the best of all the girls" he knows. The mother's philosophy suffers a rude shock in the course of the play, when she discovers that her boy has misinterpreted her teachings that all the world is good and sweet and beautiful.

And the fight she makes to save the lad from the consequences of his own ignorance forms a stirring climax, which offers Miss Taylor extraordinary opportunities to rise to heights of emotional acting. Reports circulated by admirers of the play have seen rehearsal portrayals of the play, which recall that admirers of Miss Taylor, who remember her in such roles as she had in "The Bird of the Year," "The Girl of the Year," "The Girl of the Year," and "The Girl of the Year," may expect the surprise of their lives when they witness this newest creation.

In the supporting company, which has been furnished by the National Theater, are Miss Violet Kumble Cooper, Miss Mary Farnham, Miss Follot Paget, Philip Merivale, Dion Titherage, and W. J. Ferguson.

Belasco: Al Jolson With

Winter Garden Extravaganza.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, JR., comes to the Belasco Theater for one week beginning tomorrow night, with Al Jolson. This Winter Garden production played all spring and summer in New York. Washington is the third city in its tour.

The "Robinson Crusoe, Jr." cast includes Lawrence O'Donoghue, Frank Car-



ter, Barry Lupino, Mabel Withers, Kitty Doner, Alexandra Dogmar, Mlle. Isabel Rodriguez, and the well-known vaudeville combination of Bowser, Crocker, and Walters, in addition to many other Broadway favorites, and the far-famed beauty chorus.

Al Jolson has a part greatly to his liking in "Friday." He makes his first appearance as a chauffeur, who accompanies his millionaire employer on a dream visit to the island home of Robinson Crusoe. "Friday," as might be expected, is a droll, worthless sort of a character with a strong penchant for getting into trouble even in such an out of the way place. Cannibals, pirates, sprites, and weird animals and reptiles aid him in this endeavor. A decidedly spectacular background. An extra performance has been added to the usual schedule because of the big advance sale, and the fact that Thursday will be Columbus Day. A matinee will be given on that day in addition to the regular Wednesday and Saturday matinees.

Keith's: Belle Story.

Edwin Arden. Vaudeville.

TWO stars from widely different orbits will head the B. F. Keith Theater bill this week. One is Belle Story, the prima donna of "Chin Chin," and the other is Edwin Arden, identified with many noteworthy dramatic productions. Miss Story is bidding Keith vaudeville a much regretted adieu, as after a short period of retirement from the stage, she expects to re-enter as a grand opera diva. Miss Story promises a new repertoire of songs, including her famous "Chin Chin" interpolation.

Mr. Arden will make his vaudeville debut in "Close Quarters," a one-act play by Oliver White. Robert Wayne, who spent some time here as the director of the Polk Stock Company prior to the advent of Harry Andrews, is with Mr. Arden. "The Four Husbands," with Ray Raymond and Florence Bar, featured, will be another novelty. The book is by Will Hough, author of "The Time, the Place, and the Girl," while the music and lyrics are contributed by William B. Friedlander.

Other attractions will be Thomas Dugan and Babette Raymond, in "They Auto Know Better," and Sylvia Clark, in "Modern Vaudeville Follies." Hans Hanke, concert pianist; Prof. Apdake's zoological circus, with the amazing anti-eater; the pipe organ recitals, and the Pathe news pictorial.

Polk's: "The Girl Without

A Chance." Stock.

"THE Girl Without a Chance" will be the week's attraction at Polk's Theater beginning tomorrow night.

The play was first introduced in Chicago, where it had a wonderful success at the Auditorium.

"The Girl Without a Chance" gives the public an insight into some of the joys and sorrows that come to the emigrant.

The story pictures in the first act, a little home in Italy, which is visited by tourists. The girl becomes infatuated with one. Incident follows incident until the action of the play reverts to America. There is a wonderful line of comedy and a happy ending.

"The Girl Without a Chance" is the work of Whitney Collins, a young newspaper man. Robert Sherman, the well-known Chicago producer, has given "The Girl Without a Chance" a wonderful equipment both in scenery and play.

Gayety: "The Midnight

Maidens." Burlesque.

"THE Midnight Maidens" will play its annual engagement at the Gayety Theater this week.

The company presents two musical burlesques and a number of vaudeville specialties.

"Stolen Sweets" is the title of the curtain-raiser serving to introduce the entire company. The title of the second is "Forbidden Fruits," and is said to be a big and sparkling musical surprise.

The personnel of the company includes Harry Hearn, Charles Cardon, George Giddy, W. J. Hoyt, Joe Flynn, Helen Byron, Clara Gibson, George H. Thurston, Fern, Bigelow and Cooper, and other popular entertainers, besides a chorus of twenty singing and dancing beauties. Among the musical numbers are "The Proposed to Go Many," "Hallelujah Moon," "I'd Wed the Girl I Left Behind," "Oh, You Naughty Men," etc. As an incident to the program is a mystery act, entitled "Stella," the

nature of which the manager does not divulge, will be introduced here for the first time.

Loew's Columbia: Lenore

Ulrich in "The Intrigue." Films.

LENORE ULRICH, who after achieving success upon the speaking stage in "The Bird of Paradise," cast her lot with the motion pictures, will be seen on the screen of Loew's Columbia Theater the first four days of this week, beginning this afternoon at 2 o'clock in an elaborate picturization of "The Intrigue."

The story deals with the adventures of an American inventor who has a war machine, an x-ray gun, and the United States Government turns it down with a trial-it seems to be too preposterous. Telling his invention to the heads of European nations, the inventor American proves that it will actually do just as he claims. It is such a remarkable gun that upon his return to New York to perfect it, he becomes entangled in the net of the foreign secret service agents in America. A very beautiful foreign countess, who is also in her country's intelligence bureau so tangles his heart strings that he does the most surprising thing of his life, and is always glad he did it.

On the same program will be seen Charley Chaplin in "The Pawnshop," a typical Chaplin portrayal.

Starting on Thursday and continuing the last three days of the week, Vivian Martin is filmed in "Her Father's Son," a story of the old southern belle and war, revealing all its crowning glory.

Casino: "The Scarlet Runner,"

With Earle Williams. Films.

THRILLS unfolded at lightning speed are described as the dominant characteristic of "The Scarlet Runner," the widely exploited "high-speed motor car mystery story," by A. M. and C. N. Williamson, which will be shown for the first time in any theater today at the Casino Theater.

This exciting tale by the authors "The Lightning Conductor," restores to the screen the very popular photoplay of Earle Williams, who was so recently retired eight months ago for the purpose of appearing in a number of plays by the Williamson, all of which are described as the "fastest stories of adventure" ever shown on the screen.

Today's featured photoplay pictures Earle Williams as a very likable young spendthrift who closes out all his worldly possessions and invests the proceeds in a powerful red racing car which he promptly names "The Scarlet Runner."

A rival attraction on today's program is a multiple-reel photoplay called "A Woman's Fight," which pictures Geraldine O'Brien as the heroine, and in the principal roles. These two features will continue at the Casino tomorrow, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Beginning Thursday, the central offerings of a new program will be "Through the Wall," and "The Shelding Show," featuring Grace Darmond and Ralph Kellard.

The auxiliary features of the programs for both halves of the week are a series of single-reel comedies, the Pathe News releases and interpolated songs by Miss Clara Naecker.

Special orchestral accompaniment for the various features will be provided by an augmented symphony orchestra.

Strand: "Hell to Pay

Austin." Films.

TODAY, Monday, and Tuesday at Moore's Strand Theater, Beatie Love and Wilfred Lucas will be featured in a picturization of the well known novel, "Hell-to-Pay Austin." Into a mining camp wanders an itinerant preacher with his little daughter. Through an accident he meets death and his child is adopted by the rough

miners, who stand in awe of Austin, the brawny superintendent whose propensity for fighting gains him the title of "Hell-to-Pay." As the little waif grows older Austin falls in love with her.

The comedy section of the program will be headed by Slim Somerville in "The Winning Punch," in which he impersonates a pseudo pugilist.

On Wednesday and Thursday Norma Talmadge will head the program in "The Social Secretary," adapted in part from the stories bearing the same title which appeared some time ago in the Saturday Evening Post. Fay Tincher will also be seen in a satirical farce comedy "Sickening Amour."

Frank Keenan will be seen on Friday and Saturday in "The Thoroughbred." Comedy on these days will be supplied by a farce "Vampire Ambrose." The Strand Symphony Orchestra will render special musical accompaniments.

Garden: Charles Chaplin in

"The Pawnshop." Films.

A TRIPLE feature program is announced by Tom Moore for showing at the Garden Theater today, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Charles Chaplin will lead the feature portion of the bill in "The Pawnshop." As a rule these "loan establishments" are more associated with tragedy, but there can be no gloom when Chaplin comes, and he leaves a meteoric streak of merriment in his wake.

In "The Pawnshop" he appears as the proprietor's assistant, who does everything from mopping the floor and polishing the golden sign to guarding priceless gems.

The dramatic section of the program offers Winnifred Greenwood and Edward Coken in "A Woman's Darling," depicting the adventures of a woman battling against tremendous odds to preserve the sanctity of her freedom.

A new and original Mutt and Jeff cartoon will conclude the program.

From Thursday to Saturday, inclusive, Nance O'Neil will grace the screen in the visualisation of Margaret Deland's novel, "The Iron Woman."

The added attraction will be a complete, "The Iron Woman" installment, featuring Rosemary Webb and Harry Meyers in the leading roles. Special musical accompaniments by the Garden Symphony Orchestra will be a daily feature.

Drama League Players

Announce First Production

The Drama League Players announce as the first production of the season 1917-18 the play "The Iron Woman," by Rudolf Besler, the author of "Don," to be presented early in November at the Wilson Normal School. The productions will probably be on Thursday nights of each week, and the audience will be strictly limited to 300 persons at each performance.

"Lady Patricia," which was very successfully given in London in 1911, with Mrs. Pat Campbell in the title role, is the known in this country, although Mrs. Fluke has acted it a few times in New York. Miss Elsie A. Lancaster will play the role of Lady Patricia in the Drama League production, with Mrs. Maude Howell Smith as Mrs. O'Farrell, Miss Esther Gude as Claire and G. A. Lyon as "Midwin," the party.

The balance of the cast has not been finally determined upon.

At the fall organization of the players, held last week, an executive board was chosen to decide questions of policy arising during the coming season. This board includes G. A. Lyon, chairman; Bertram Bloch, director; Miss Ethel Smith, Miss Edith Goods, Mrs. Raymond B. Morgan, and Dr. George F. Bowerman. More than fifty persons have joined the group this season, including not only those desirous of developing talent for acting, but also many who are interested in other branches of the production, and already a group of scene painters and one of stage mechanics have been organized.

The mechanical problems of "Lady Patricia" have been turned over to a working force, consisting of Newton Collins, Dr. Stewart W. Bowyer, Fain, and Sherman Danforth, who met Tuesday night to discuss plans for the forthcoming production.

The Washington Square Players are about to start out on a tour and the last of this month will find them at the Belasco Theater, where they will play their short plays. This is the first tour the players have made in the history of their organization.

Twinkling Stars And Satellites

AL JOLSON AND FOUR OF HIS PIRATES - Belasco -

CONCERNING FRANCES

Starr and Her New Play.

DAVID BELASCO announces that the new play, "The Little Lady in Blue," in which he will present Miss Starr at the Belasco Theater on Monday night, October 16, is a comedy having to do with the English naval life in the year 1820.

During the course of Miss Starr's very brilliant career under the tutelage of Mr. Belasco, she has created five different roles in plays described as dramas, namely, "The Rose of the Rancho," "The Earliest Way," "The Case of Becky," "The Secret," and "Marie-Odile." Not once during this period has she essayed a comedy role, although she possessed of an earnest inclination and decided talent in this direction. Whether Mr. Belasco, in view of the remarkable success he has had with "The Boomerang" and "Seven Chances," believes that comedy has once more come into order to achieve its highest aims.

Frances Starr has finally reached that pinnacle toward which his training has been directing her, he is now going to put her forward in comedy—high comedy. It is reported—the kind which depends on finesse and subtlety of shading in order to achieve its highest aims.

"I have always wanted more than anything else to appear in a real comedy role," Miss Starr said recently, "and I have often said so. But it was a little slow in coming, and consequently most people had begun to think it was little more than a myth. It was to be produced last January, then in April, but each time had to be postponed because of Marie-Odile's remarkable popularity. The cast had been engaged, the costumes made, and the scenery built for 'The Little Lady in Blue,' but we simply had to wait.

"You know there is one thing about a well-paid comedy, and that is you are always sure of an audience. American people as a whole have no interest whatever in the tragic things that may happen to their friends or even to themselves as dramatic themes, and the plays dealing with the momentous ideas, big thoughts and inspirational suggestions only attract a limited number. There will always be a few who are amused by serious things, but what entertains the majority is always something humorous. So if it is audiences that one wants, one must do what they best way to corral one is by giving a comedy."

The success of "The House of Glass," which comes to the New National for a limited engagement, beginning October 2, was foreshadowed from the first performance. Miss Ryan has the role of Margaret Case, a young, strong, rafter. Cohen & Harris have provided a splendid production and survived a week's engagement at the National Knickerbocker, New York.

Charles Cherry has been engaged by William Faversham and Per play the part of Hotchkiss in George Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Getting Married," the first American presentation of which will shortly be given in this city. It was originally announced that Mr. Faversham would play this role himself, but at the request of Mr. Shaw he finally decided to enact the character of the Bishop which was impersonated in London by Henry Ainley when "Getting Married" was originally presented there.

Maude Adams will start rehearsals for her new season in a fortnight. She opens in "The Little Minister," with Dallas Anderson and Gey Diksha, the part he played with her last year.

"Abe" and "Mawruss" are coming back again, and this time in a new play by Montague Glass and Roi Cooper Mergue, called "Potash & Perlmutter in Society," which is scheduled for a week's engagement at the National Knickerbocker, New York, October 30, coming almost directly from a twenty-four weeks' engagement at the Lyric Theater of the role of Potash.

Joe Flynn, author of "Down Went McGinty," a popular song of a general ago, is one of the featured comedians at the Gayety Theater this week.

The popularity of Edward E. Rose

as a playwright is being attested anew in the coming production at Polk's Theater of two of his plays, "While the City Sleeps" and "My Mother's Rosary." Mr. Rose is also happily remembered to players as the author of "The Prisoner of Zenda," "Janice Meredith," "Richard Carvel," "David Harum," and other notable successes.

R. Fuller Jarboe, musical director of "The Midnight Maiden," is the father of Harry O. Jarboe, manager of the Gayety Theater. Mrs. Jarboe accompanies her husband on his trip around the Columbia circuit.

"Experience," the modern morality play, by George V. Hobart, which has been such a great dramatic success for the past two seasons, is finally booked for Washington, and will appear at the Belasco Theater week of November 12. This play enjoys the reputation of having broken more records than any theatrical attraction since the days of "Ben Hur." It was first given in Boston, and is now concluding a log and successful engagement in Philadelphia. It is the story of youth and his adventures in the big world, his trials and his temptations.

There are a few scenes in the play, which is presented by a company of eighty-two players. Prominent in the cast are Ernest Glendinning as Youth, William Ingraham as Experience, Marie Home as Pleasure, Fraser Coulter as Wealth, and many others.

To Make Tour.

The Washington Square Players are about to start out on a tour and the last of this month will find them at the Belasco Theater, where they will play their short plays. This is the first tour the players have made in the history of their organization.

Attractions Coming To Washington

Belasco.

Daniel Belasco presents Frances Starr at the Belasco Theater on Monday night, October 16, in "The Little Lady in Blue," a new comedy by Horace Hodges and I. Wigney Percyvale. Supporting cast includes Jerome Patrick, Frederick Graham, Horace Abraham, George Giddens, Albert Andrews, Charles Gerry, Roland Houghton, Lesly Beaumont, and Eleanor Pendleton.

National.

Washington is to have very early in the season one of the great big hits of last year as Belasco and company announce Avery Hopwood's famous farce success, "Fair and Warmer," for presentation at the National Theater, October 16, with the New York company, headed by Miss Madge Kennedy. "Fair and Warmer" is called on the bill boards "a play of temperature and temperament," and it is literally that. It's all about two young married couples who get in an unusual mixup through differences in temperament. The cast in addition to Miss Kennedy, who is the featured player, includes John Arthur, Ethel Wilson, Robert Ober, Arthur Stanford, Jane Seymour, John Morris, and Harry Lorraine.

Polk's.

"While the City Sleeps," a comedy drama by Edward E. Rose, will be the attraction at Polk's Theater beginning Monday, October 16. Mr. Rose is well remembered as the author of "The Rosary," and other successes. Rowland & Clifford have given the play a splendid setting. Through the medium of "While the City Sleeps," the blue-coated man has come into his own as a stage idol.

Gayety.

Al Reeves, who for the past twenty-five years has been one of the foremost producers of novelties in the burlesque field, brings his famous "Beauty Show" to this city. The show is a speciality of assembling an unusually large chorus which he sets forth as the most attractive element in the show.

A two-act farce, entitled "Blumming," showing two scenes laid in Chinatown and in the banquet room of a Fifth Avenue mansion, is this year's vehicle. Charles Robies and Al Green, two of burlesque's most popular comedians, appear in the principal comedy roles. As an added attraction, Sulzbach and Miller, coming direct from the Keith circuit, are making their first appearance in the city.

Others in the cast are Bernice Taber and Edna Claire, Eddy and Earle, Pasqua, Felix Murphy, and White and Cavanaugh.

Keith's.

Jack Norworth, fresh from London, will be the leading attraction at Keith's next week.

Other features will be Hermine Shone and Company; Harry Tighe and Sylvia Jason; E. Marian's Swiss Canines, Ed Reynard and Miss Fanny; The Littlestons; Maud Miller; Wallace Bradley and Grette Ardine; the pipe organ recitals, and the Pathe News Pictorial.

Loew's Columbia.

"Witchcraft," the photodrama, which won the prize contest held at Columbia University under the auspices of the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company, will be exhibited at Loew's Columbia Theater next week. Fannie Ward appears in the leading role.

The author of this intense drama is Dr. R. H. LaRue, a physician of Morristown, N. J., and one of the members of the new class in photodramatics at the celebrated university in New York.

Films.

A decidedly important film production is listed on the program announced for the week beginning next Sunday at the Casino Theater. A novel little comedy, entitled "The Nuremberg Watch," a brand new film play by A. M. and C. N. Williamson, but in which the famous racing stars, the Williams, figures with Earle Williams in new and exceedingly thrilling adventures.

Other films will be "The French Milliner," with Fay Tincher.

Core Thorne, the celebrated Saturday actor, and Irene Hawley, will appear jointly in a story of the underworld, entitled "Life's Shadow." Irene Griffith will also be seen on these days in an original comedy study in black and white, "The Artists' Dream." Special musical accompaniment will be rendered by the Garden Symphony Orchestra.

Beginning Sunday, October 15, Tom Moore announces the indefinite engagement at the Strand Theater of Thomas Ince's monumental film classic, "Civiltization," which is doing capacity business on Broadway.

Over 40,000 people take part in its various scenes. The acting cast includes the celebrated stars, Edna May, Howard Hickman, Clara Williams, Herchell Mayall, Louise Glum, Charles Frank, J. J. Shannon, Edgington, Martha Hedman, Gilbert Douglas, Josephine Parks, Ida Waterman, Dorothy McGrew, and many others.

"The Boomerang." An impending event at the Belasco Theater is the engagement of the New York comedy hit, "The Boomerang," which David Belasco will send to Washington with the same splendid cast that has been appearing at the Belasco Theater, New York, for the past fifteen months. Some of the prominent names are Arthur Byron, Ruth Shepley, Edna May, Martha Hedman, Gilbert Douglas, Josephine Parks, Ida Waterman, Dorothy McGrew, and many others.

Dancing Nightly At

Arcade Auditorium

The cool nights find large crowds of pleasure seekers at the Arcade Auditorium, where dancing from the hours of 8:30 to 11:30 p. m. is indulged in.

It will be the aim of the management throughout the entire year to maintain a high standard at all times.

One of the features which has been most pleasing to the younger set is the "Columbia" on Friday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30, during which time they are allowed exclusive possession of the floor. Immediately following comes the regular dancing for the older ones.

The roller skating is another popular attraction every afternoon from 4 to 6 p. m. Competent instructors are in attendance for those who have not mastered the art and special attention is given to women and children. Music for the occasion is rendered by an automatic orchestra.